



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SOUTH DAKOTA AIRMEN RETURN TO SOUTHWEST ASIA

The South Dakota Air National Guard is completing final preparations for deployment to Southwest Asia in support of the United States Air Force's Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation plan.

Approximately 200 Airmen of the state's 114th Fighter Wing will depart from Joe Foss Field, in Sioux Falls, during July 2013 to an unspecified location where they will support ongoing military operations. The deployed Airmen are scheduled to return to South Dakota in the fall.

This will be the fifth large-scale deployment from the 114th Fighter Wing in support of global operations since September 11, 2001. During this same time there have also been numerous de-



ployments of South Dakota Air National Guard units and Airmen in support of Expeditionary Combat Support requirements throughout the world.

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CEREMONY HONORS NC GUARDSMEN KILLED FIGHTING FIRE

A memorial ceremony was held last Monday to dedicate an interpretive site that honors the Airmen of the North Carolina Air National Guard (NCANG) C-130 aircraft that crashed one year ago today while fighting the White Draw Fire near Edgemont. Four members of the six-person Modular Airborne Firefighting System 7 (MAFFS-7) aircrew died when strong winds out of a thunderstorm caused their air tanker to impact the ground on a ridge top northeast of Edgemont.

"We are honoring these six North Carolina Guardsmen for their heroism and we are dedicating this site so that people will remember them forever," said South Dakota Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, during the ceremony. "It is impossible for any words to pass my lips that can express our incredible gratitude for the sacrifices that these men have made...but they will always be remembered by this memorial."

The MAFFS-7 C-130 aircraft that crashed was from the NCANG's 145th Airlift Wing based at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. Killed were Lt. Col. Paul Mikeal, 42, of Mooresville; Maj. Joseph McCormick, 36, of Belmont; Maj. Ryan David, 35, of Boone; and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Cannon, 50, of Charlotte. Two survived but were seriously injured — Chief Master Sgt. Andy Huneycutt of Lancaster and Sgt. Josh Marlowe of Shelby.

More than 100 family members, friends and colleagues were present for the ceremony and to see the unveiling of the interpretive signs. Located approximately seven miles north of Edgemont along Hwy 18, the interpretive site overlooks the ridge where the aircraft crashed while dropping fire retardant on the White Draw Fire.

"None of them took off that day to become heroes, in fact they would all tell us assuredly if they were here that they were simply answering a call to duty," said Maj. Gen. Gregory Lusk, adjutant general of the N.C. National Guard. "They were simply doing the job they all love to do. As we pay tribute to the crew – by commemorating on the anniversary this site – we acknowledge that they join a very long line of Minutemen who have for over 376 years done exactly what they did; just answer the call of the neighbor in need, service to the community and service to our nation."

"I recall that first approach by a large air tanker, the roar of the props and turbines above the treetops...time and again, I witnessed how well it helped ground firefighters," Black Hills National Forest Supervisor Craig Bobzien said of the MAFFS-7 aircrew. "Our purpose today probes deeper. We are peering into the tiny windows and inside the aircraft at the humans and focusing on the crew of MAFFS-7 – protecting our freedom and protecting us from peril. They served with honor and we are here to honor them."

The construction of the interpretive site and signs were a collaborative effort between the South Dakota National Guard and Black Hills National Forest officials. The interpretive site includes a parking area and signs that tell the story of the fire and the fatal accident.

"The unveiling of this marker here today will assure that these heroes will indeed live forever," said Maj. Gen. Lusk. "To the families of these brave men, just know that we will always remember and acknowledge your sacrifices and your service, every step of the way. I hope from your perspective this dedication is indeed the legacies of your husbands, and that it is fair to say that the citizens of North Carolina and the citizens of South Dakota will forever share a kindred bond."



DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY FOR THE 152ND

Sixty-eight Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion were honored during a deployment ceremony Saturday, July 6 in Pierre. Hundreds of family members, friends and community supporters gathered at the T.F. Riggs High School auditorium to see the Soldiers off as they depart for about a six-month tour to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Speakers for the ceremony included Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG.

"This is a great day, because this (ceremony) brings us together because of our love for the Soldiers that are being deployed today," said Daugaard. "Our admiration for their great competence, skill, courage, dedication and loyalty to our state and our nation inspires us to come together and show them how much we appreciate them."

"I couldn't be more proud of this unit," said Reisch. "This unit has executed a rigorous training plan to prepare this unit for deployment, and there is no doubt in my mind that your performance during this deployment will add to the impressive legacy of the South Dakota National Guard."

The mission of the 152nd's Headquarters and Headquarters Company will be to provide multi-functional combat support and combat service support to forces throughout an assigned area of operation. Multi-functional areas include supply, transportation, maintenance and ordnance support.

"We will do everything possible to go over there and do great things and come home safe. That's our number one goal," said Lt. Col. Michael Oster, commander of the 152nd. "Our second goal is to live in a place where excellence is not only our expectation but also that it becomes our average. So on a bad day we're great and on a good day we are spectacular. That's what we're going to do in the 152nd."

The Soldiers that comprise the Pierre-based Guard unit come from 28 different South Dakota communities. While many of the Soldiers will be deploying for the first time, more than half of the unit are deploying for the second or third time.

"People from all across South Dakota are assigned to this unit, and it is an incredible representation, not only of the state but of our National Guard," said Oster. "This unit is truly made up of engineers, artillery transportation, logisticians, and it's an incredible cross-representation of who we are and what we do. That means you have a great team in front of you to go forward and take on this mission."

The 152nd will report to Fort Hood, Texas, for several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. The unit received orders last week curtailing their total deployment time by more than 100 days. This is the first deployment for the unit.

"At the same time the National Guard is available to serve our state, it is also available to serve our nation," said Daugaard. "In the last decade, since the War on Terror began, the National Guard has increasingly been relied upon by our nation as our frontline just as much as our regular Soldiers are called upon. During times of need, we can count on the National Guard."



SDDVA EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED

Recently, Secretary Zimmerman recognized employees from the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home for their years of service. He thanked them for their dedication, commitment and years of service.

Recognized were Mary Kay Payton for 12 years with the State of South Dakota and Larry Wilcox with 15 years with the State.

Zimmerman noted that the Veterans Home depends heavily on long term, experienced employees to carry out the important mission of the Home. Zimmerman thanked all the employees for their special attributes.



AMERICAN LEGION SPONSORS TROOPER ACADEMY

Recently a group of South Dakota teens trained with the South Dakota Highway Patrol at the Youth Trooper Academy in Pierre. This academy is co-sponsored by the South Dakota American Legion.

This is the second year for the academy, which is geared for young adults ages 16 and 17 who are entering their senior year of high school.

"These young adults are exposed to the rewards and structure we require for the Patrol," Maj. Rick Miller, assistant superintendent with the Highway Patrol said. "It's a great opportunity for us too because of the relationships we develop with them."

During the week-long training program, veteran Highway Patrol troopers serve as mentors and chaperones for the academy. Troopers and officers from other law-enforcement agencies throughout the state, provide classroom and hands-on training in firearms safety, defensive driving, crash investigation, traffic stops, leadership, police service dog handling and criminal law.

Rick MacDonald, South Dakota American Legion Commander said, "We've been able to bring a national level program to the young adults in our state. The American Legion and the South Dakota Highway Patrol give our youth an opportunity to experience first-hand what it's like to train as a law enforcement officer. It also gives the Patrol a view into the talent who might apply for the squad over the next few years."

Recruit Jessica Smith, a senior in Pierre thinking about a career after high school in law enforcement said, "I really enjoyed this unique opportunity and experience. My goal was to get a better understanding about the way law enforcement and the academy operates."

This year's academy opened Monday morning, June 24 and finished with a graduation ceremony on Friday afternoon, June 28.



SDNG MUSEUM WEARING THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE

If you are driving by the South Dakota National Guard Museum this week or next you are sure to see a lot of red, white and blue.

Museum Director Sonja Johnson is hosting students from the Boys and Girls Club, Childrens' Castle, and the YMCA. She is taking this opportunity to educate the youth on the history of the American Flag and the symbolism of the colors, stripes and stars. Johnson is not only focusing on what the flag means to many American, but what it means to the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and how it unites them as "team America!"

After the presentation students were asked to draw a flag symbolizing the USA. Before departing the museum students placed their handprints on a blank canvas in an effort to create flags. The flags will be shipped to SDNG units that are currently serving in Afghanistan and Southwest Asia.



During July and August the students will also be learning about gas masks and compass roses.

Museum hours are from 9 am—4 pm Monday—Friday. This summer the Museum has expanded its summer hours and is open until 7 p.m. on July 18, August 6 and 15, and Sept. 3 and 19.

HONORING OUR HEROES



The American Legion Riders, Post 71 & the Hot Springs, SD Community present:

Honoring Our Heroes

At Centennial Park

July 31st - August 4th, 2013



All days: Tri-State Fallen Soldier Memorial, book signings by various authors, support staff, vendors.

Wednesday, July 31st

3:00 pm: Wall escort leaves Chadron, NE

4:30 pm: Wall arrives in town; parade through town

6:00 pm: Dinner at the American Legion (sponsored by the Women's Auxilliary)

Thursday, August 1st

8:00 am: Wall set-up begins

1:00 pm: Opening Ceremony

Friday, August 2nd

10:00 am: Honoring Police Departments Day

2:00 pm: Memorial Brick Garden Dedication

Saturday, August 3rd

10:00 am: Honoring Fire Departments Day

1:00 - 3:00 pm: Youth Wall Tour (parents welcome)

Sunday, August 4th

8:30 am Farewell Blessing at wall

9:00 Freedom Ride Registration at State Veterans Home (see details on separate flyer)

3:00 pm: wall take-down begins

24-hour wall viewing begins at 1 pm on August 1st and will end at 3 pm on August 4th.

At Mueller Civic Center

All days: Agent Orange Quilt of Tears; National Guard Display; South Dakota State Historical Society Traveling Exhibit; Grandma's Petting Zoo & Pony Rides; various vendors.



*Honoring Those That
Fought For Our
Freedom*

Thursday, August 1st & Friday, August 2nd only: South Dakota Fallen Hero Banner

Saturday, August 3rd only: All Veterans Benefit Fair & Reunion Picnic
4-5 pm social hour, 5-5:30 pm guest speaker, 6 pm Veterans & Families Only Picnic; 7 pm band (open to public)

RESTATIONING CEREMONY SET FOR WEBSTER GUARD UNIT

A restationing ceremony for Webster's Detachment 2, 147th Forward Support Company will be held at the Webster National Guard armory Sunday, July 14 at 10 a.m. (CDT). The ceremony is being held to honor the unit's lineage of service to the community, state and nation.

The restationing is a result of several factors to include federal budget cuts, U.S. Army restructuring and the construction of a new Regional Readiness Center in Watertown, announced in April 2012. The unit is primarily being restationed because the Watertown Readiness Center was selected for funding through the military construction process, which provides for new facilities that enhance training and readiness for SDNG units. The relocation and consolidation of units to this more centralized location will save money, maximize resources, provide better training opportunities and develop more cohesive units that will be ready when a crisis or disaster strikes.

History of the SDNG in Webster:

The first National Guard unit in Webster began with Company I, 1st Regiment of the Dakota Territory, organized on May 11, 1887, before statehood. Webster hosted several units of the 1st and 2nd Regiments of the South Dakota National Guard from 1887 until World War I. The unit did not organize again after WWI, and for nearly 30 years the city was without a unit. In January 1947, the Webster unit started up again as an anti-tank company within the newly organized 196th Regimental Combat Team. In 1950, the unit was called to federal active duty service and trained at Fort Carson, Colo., until it deployed to Alaska during the Korean War, where it served until Sept. 1, 1952.

In 1956, after the 196th Regimental Combat Team was disbanded, the Webster unit became Headquarters Battery of the 643th Field Artillery. The unit was re-designated Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in 1959. In 2007, the Webster unit changed from Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery to Detachment 2, 147th Forward Support Company. With the completion of the Watertown Readiness Center, this unit will be afforded the opportunity to bring their entire unit together in one location for the first time in this unit's short history.

Guard units from Webster have also been called up numerous times in its history to support South Dakotans during natural disasters and emergencies for floods, tornadoes, wildfires and winter storms. Most recently, the unit supported Pierre area residents with flood relief efforts in the late spring and summer of 2011.

CANARIES HOST MILITARY AND VETERANS APPRECIATION NIGHT

Take Me Out to the
Ballgame!



PLAY BALL
July 19th, 7:05 PM
Sioux Falls Canaries
VS
Gary South Shore RailCats



The Sioux Falls Canaries Baseball Team will host the Military and Veterans Appreciation Night on Friday Night, July 19th. There will be 75 tickets available in section M, with the cost of each ticket being \$5.00.

COME ON OUT AND ENJOY A NIGHT OF BASEBALL WITH THE CANARIES!

OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT SOUTH DAKOTA'S FALLEN HEROES

This summer South Dakotans have numerous opportunities to view the South Dakota Operation Enduring and Operation Iraqi Freedom Fallen Heroes exhibit. This exhibit affords South Dakotans the opportunity to wish them an eternal life of resting in peace knowing they gave their best – they gave their all!

Most recently the banners were on display at Main Street Square in Rapid City and in Belle Fourche during the Black Hills Round Up.

This banner project will continue until such time these conflicts have been declared over and SD dedicates a memorial in honor of the OEF/OIF/OND veterans. To make a donation to continue this effort you may do so by sending your donation to: Military Appreciation Group (MAG), Inc., P.O. Box 419, Sioux Falls, SD 57101.

If you have an interest in knowing how you can bring these banners to your local area for a special viewing, please contact Audry Ricketts (773-8242) at the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Display Dates

Aug 1-2 - American Veterans Tribute - Hot Springs
Aug. 3 - Buffalo Chip - Sturgis
Aug. 6-19 - SPC Dennis Jensen Memorial Ride - Whitewood
Aug. 24-25 - Freedom Bird - Expo Building - W.H.Lyons Fairground - Sioux Falls
Sept. 9-19 - Tri-State Museum/Belle Fourche Chamber
Oct. 15-17 - Voc Rehab Conf on Veterans with Disabilities - Pierre Ramkota Inn
Nov. 1-8 - Middle School Library - Yankton
Nov. 11-13 - VFW - Deadwood



Upcoming Events

Jul. 19—Sioux Falls Canaries Baseball Game Military and Veteran Appreciation Night
 Jul. 26—Korean War Commemoration Display—SDNG Museum—Pierre
 Jul. 27—Korean War Wreath Laying Ceremony at the SD State Capitol—Pierre
 Jul. 31– Aug. 4—American Veterans Traveling Tribute—Hot Springs
 Aug. 3—All Veterans Reunion—Hot Springs
 Aug. 4—Freedom Poker Ride—Hot Springs
 Aug. 21—SFVAHCS 12th Annual VA Show and Shine
 Aug. 21—Sioux Falls Veterans & Spouses Job Fair—Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am
 Aug. 24-25—Freedom Bird 2013—W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls 10:00 am—5:00 pm
 Aug. 26-28—VSO Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
 Aug. 29—Salute to Veterans and Military Personnel Day at the SD State Fair
 Aug. 31—DAV/727th Poker Run—Brookings Armory—11:00 am
 Sep. 11—Stand Down—Wagner
 Sep. 13—Stand Down Watertown
 Sep. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm
 Sep. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen
 Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
 Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am



**DAV BROOKINGS
CHAPTER #22
AND 727TH
TRANSPORTATION
POKER RUN ON
AUGUST 31ST**

The DAV Brookings Chapter No. 22 and the 727th Transportation U.S. Army National Guard Unit will be hosting the "9TH ANNUAL DAV/727TH CHARITY POKER RUN" on August 31st at the Brookings Armory. Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. with the "BIG RUN" departing with a "Parade at HIGH NOON." There is a \$15.00 Registration fee.

The event will be held rain or shine with a \$500.00 BEST HAND and many other prizes. All proceeds go to the DAV Hospital Transportation Network.

If questions, please contact CSM Robert Foster at (605) 873-2566.

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